SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is a question of maintenance and not restoration.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Mrs. Margaret Alva was the Minister holding the charge of Education for some time.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: No. 1 never held the Education Department. I was part of the HRD and part of the Planning Process. That is why I am saying that what was planned is not happening today. You may get statistics. But they are all lapsing into illiteracy again.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I have already said that I agree with the Member. It has happened like that in some districts. Therefore, we are having this follow-up action. Follow-up action is being taken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Karan Singh, are you itching to say something?

DR. KARAN SINGH: Is there time, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two minutes.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution has given us a directive that within ten years from its adoption free and compulsory education should be provided to all children. Is it not a shame and a disgrace that 50 years later we will have more illiterate people in India in 1997 than that we had in 1947? The House will be shocked to learn that the total number of illiterates, if my information is correct, will be more in 1997, fifty years after independence, than in 1947. This is a matter of disgrace for the whole nation, when there are no buildings for primary schools, when there are villages where there are no schools and where false muster rolls are made, when corruption is creeping into the entire system. Why does the Government spend hundreds of crores of rupees on five-star hotels and jumbo jets? No nation will become great, unless it breakes the illiteracy chain around it. Will the hon. Minister assure us that, at least, by the end of the Ninth Plan we will achieve total literacy?

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: I agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member. The Government will make all efforts, as 1 have already stated, to have universal education by the end of the century. We will do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On an optimistic note, Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Railway line from Port Blair to Diglipur

*324. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to lay railway line from Port Blair to Diglipur in North Andaman;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that this rail line would cause incalculable damange to the development in Andaman; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) A survey has been taken up. The details will be known after the survey is completed.

(c) and (d) The ecological and environmental aspects would be duly considered before taking up any rail link in the area.

Scheme for disabled children in Gujarat

*325. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) the details of the institutions, functioning under the Integrated Education for Disabled Children's scheme in Gujarat;

(b) the details of the grants given by Government to the State during the last four years;

(c) whether the present grant is inadequate as per the requirement; and

(d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to meet the requirement?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) 13 institutions/NGO's are